

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 36

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

HONORING PARENTS AND EDUCATORS OF GIFTED CHILDREN AND DECLARING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2010 "GIFTED EDUCATION DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE".

WHEREAS, there are many gifted children in New Mexico who  
demonstrate outstanding performance in the areas of  
intelligence, achievement, creativity and critical thinking;  
and

WHEREAS, Section 22-13-6.1 NMSA 1978 requires the public  
education department to make a determination of who is a gifted  
child and to establish standards to address gifted children;  
and

WHEREAS, these standards have been established in  
regulations defining specific parameters of giftedness in the  
areas of intellectual ability, subject matter aptitude,  
creative or divergent thinking and problem-solving or critical

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1 thinking, all of which are found to be exceptional in a gifted  
2 child; and

3 WHEREAS, the concept of "gifted" has been included in  
4 special education in New Mexico since 1972; and

5 WHEREAS, through the years, numerous bills and memorials  
6 have been introduced to enhance the educational environment for  
7 gifted children in New Mexico, resulting in steady progress in  
8 the nature and character of special education and standard  
9 programming for students identified as gifted; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1972, the United States congress affirmed in  
11 P.L. 95-561, Title IX, Part A, Section 901 that the nation's  
12 greatest resource for solving critical national problems in  
13 areas of national concern is its gifted and talented children,  
14 and the congress exhorted the nation to give special attention  
15 to developing the abilities of gifted and talented children to  
16 ensure that their special potential for assisting the nation is  
17 not lost; and

18 WHEREAS, in August 2008, the public education department  
19 released the *Technical Assistance for Gifted Education* manual,  
20 a resource guide to all educators developed by a dedicated  
21 group of individuals, including university professors, teachers  
22 of gifted children, program coordinators and school liaisons  
23 for the gifted and talented; and

24 WHEREAS, all students, including gifted students in New  
25 Mexico, are deserving of an appropriate educational experience

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1 that matches their abilities and potential in an environment  
2 where intellectual challenge and growth is supported; and

3 WHEREAS, a broad coalition of the public education  
4 department, teachers, parents and community members has been  
5 working diligently to ensure that legislative and regulatory  
6 activities continue to support the development of an  
7 educational structure that will allow gifted children to meet  
8 their full potential in the public school setting; and

9 WHEREAS, the efforts, diligence and commitment of these  
10 dedicated individuals is worthy of the recognition of the  
11 legislature;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that parents and educators of gifted  
14 children be honored, and that February 11, 2010 be declared  
15 "Gifted Education Day at the Legislature"; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the New  
18 Mexico association for the gifted, the Albuquerque association  
19 for gifted and talented students, the parent association for  
20 gifted education, the Roswell association for gifted students,  
21 the Hispano chamber of commerce and the advancing African  
22 American achievement organization.

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